GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2493
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2016
Performance of Export Promotion Councils
Patil Shri Chandrakant Raghunath

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of Export Promotion Councils in the country along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
(b) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the working of these Export Promotion Councils particularly Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts and Sports Goods Export Promotion Council; and
(c) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) to (c): Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) are organizations of exporters, set up with the objective to promote and develop Indian exports. Each Council is responsible for promotion of a particular group of products/ projects/ services. Department of Commerce, as also the other administrative Departments like Ministry of Textiles, Department of Telecom etc. regularly interact with the Councils to support their activities for promoting exports.Representatives of the Government of India are nominated in the Management Committee of such Councils so that the sector-wise challenges faced by the EPCs are assessed and performance of the Councils are taken stock of by such representatives. Joint meetings are also held with the Councils to understand the larger areas of concerns affecting exports.This is an on-going exercise. There are various provisions under the Schemes like Market Access Initiative and Marketing Development Assistance through which such EPCs can avail funds to promote exports. To strengthen the functioning of the Councils and in order to make the EPCs truly democratic and participative in nature and for good governance and transparency, the Department has issued fresh guidelines in 2015for elections for various posts of the Councils, keeping in view the spirit of para 2.92 of the Handbook of Procedures of Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20.
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